

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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OMB-01 /083 W

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R 191408Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8993

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS, JO

SUBJECT: WEST BANK'S REACTION TO ISRAELI ELECTIONS

1. ANWAR KHATIB, FORMER JORDANIAN GOVERNOR OF EAST JERUSALEM, TOLD CONSUL GENERAL MAY 19 THE LIKUD OUCTORY HAD CLARIFIED MATTERS. HE TOOK POSITION THERE WAS NO ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LABOR AND LIKUD ON THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL AND THAT IT PROBABLY WAS TO THE GOOD THAT LABOR'S "MISLEADING" FORMULA ON WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS IN PROPORTION TO THE AMOUNT OF PEACE RECEIVED HAD BEEN REPLACED BY BEGIN'S FORTHRIGHT FORMULATIONS.

2. KHATIB THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY BEGIN WOULD FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS CHANGE HIS POSITION ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. IN TYPICAL WEST BANK PALESTINIAN FASHION, HE DECLARED

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EVERYTHING WAS NOW UP TO THE U.S. AND THE ARAB STATES. DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS THE U.S. WOULD EITHER "EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES" OR THE ARAB STATES WOULD HAVE TO DRAW THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION.

3. KHATIB'S VIEWS RESEMBLE THOSE IN THE MAY 19 EDITORIAL OF JERUSALEM'S LEADING

ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, AL QUDS. "IN OUR
OPINION THERE IS NO GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE LIKUD AND MAARACH, IN PRINCIPLE. THE
DIFFERENCE IS ONLY IN TACTICS, COURAGE AND
THE WAY THEY DECLARE THEIR INTENTIONS AND
GOALS OPENLY. WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT
MAARACH ARE THE ONES WHO CONSTANTLY EVADED
THE CHANCES FOR PEACE DURING THE TEN YEARS OF
OCCUPATION. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO STARTED
THE CHAIN OF SETTLEMENTS FROM SHARM-EL-SHEIKH
TO THE JORDAN VALLEY AND TUBAS. THEY ARE THE
ONES WHO IMPLEMENTED THE BRITISH MANDATE
EMERGENCY LAWS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
THEY ARE THE ONES WHO IN SPITE OF ALL THE
SETTLEMENTS WHICH IMPAIRED PEACE, COULD
CHEAT THE WORLD AND APPEAR IN THE ROLE OF ONE WHO IS
READY FOR AN AGREEMENT AND PREPARED TO
MAKE CONCESSIONS FOR PEACE. THE DISAPPEARANCE
OF MAARACH FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE WILL NOT
GREATLY AFFECT THE POLICY OF ISRAEL. THE
COMING OF LIKUD TO POWER WILL NOT BE MORE
THAN DROPPING THE MASK WHICH WAS COVERING
THE TRUE FACE OF ISRAEL."

4. COMMENT: KHATIB IS REGARDED AS KING
HUSSEIN'S MAN IN EAST JERUSALEM. HE CLAIMS
THAT HIS VIEWS ARE SHARED BY MANY OF HIS
FRIENDS WHO, LIKE HIM, ARE PRO-HASHEMITE.
HIS REACTION THAT ALL ISRAELIS ARE, AT
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HEART, ANNEXATIONISTS, IS THE MIRROR IMAGE OF THE VIEW
WE HEAR FROM NON-OFFICIAL ISRAELIS HERE THAT ALL ARABS,
FUNDAMENTALLY, ARE REJECTIONISTS.
NEWLIN

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